THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The Government has formulated a new scheme on Enhancing Sustainability of Dryland Farming Systems to address the issues of dryland areas of semi arid and arid regions. Initially, the scheme is to be implemented on pilot basis in 16 districts (4 each in the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharasthra and Karnataka) having annual rainfall of < 700 mm and irrigation coverage < 30% of net sown area after its approval.

Cold storages in Andhra Pradesh

1961. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for setting up of cold storages in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise. However, National Horticulture Board (NHB) is implementing a scheme "Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernization of Cold Storage/Storages of Horticulture Produce" under which 40 cold storage involving 1.97 lakh tonnes additional capacity for horticulture crops have been created in Andhra Pradesh since 1999-2000.

MSP for pulses

1962. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to prescribe minimum support price for pulses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government announces each season Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities, including pulses, based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). The Minimum Support Prices of pulses for the Kharif and Rabi Crops of 2005-06 season have already been announced and are as follows:

(Rs. per quintal)

Pulse	MSP
Arhar (Tur)	1400
Moong	1520
Urad	1520
Masur (Lentil)	1535
Gram	1435

(c) Does not arise.

Land management

†1963. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gross domestic product of the country has been falling to 1.3 per cent due to poor land management;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether any scheme for proper land management has been forwarded to State Governments; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The gross domestic product in real terms at 1999-2000 prices has registered a growth of 8.10% in the year 2005-06, compared to the growth of 7.50% in the year, 2004-05.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.